

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 /083 W

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P R 030825Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1317

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 11670

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, JA, US

SUBJECT: MIKI ADVISOR'S LOCKHEED VIEWS

SUMMARY: A LONGTIME MIKI CONFIDANT TOLD THE CHARGE AUGUST 2 THAT, UNLESS A NAKASONE (LDP SEC GEN) OR CURRENT CABINET MEMBERS WAS CAUGHT UP IN THE LOCKHEED PROBE, MIKI WOULD CARRY ON THROUGH THE LATE-YEAR GENERAL ELECTION WITH HIS PRESENT CABINET. BUT IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, A TOP LDP OR GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WAS CALLED IN, IT WOULD SET OFF A POWER STRUGGLE AMONG COMYZG2 VATES. MIKI'S MAN WAS GENERALLY UPBEAT ABOUT THE LDP IMAGE FOLLOWING TANAKA'S ARREST AND PARTY ELECTION PROSPECTS. OUR SOUNDINGS INDICATE THESE VIEWS ARE SHARED - JUSTIFIABLY OR NOT - AMONG THOSE CLOSE TO MIKI. END SUMMARY.

1. DEPUTY CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY TOSHIKI KAIFU LUNCED AUGUST 2 WITH THE CHARGE. KAIFU IS A LONGTIME MIKI ADVISOR AND DEFENDER; HE DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS A "SPECIAL SECRETARY." HE WAS MIKI'S CHOICE TO BE CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY BUT BECAUSE OF HIS RELATIVE YOUTH - HE IS 45 -  
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HE WAS RULED OUT. ALTHOUGH CLEARLY BIASED IN MIKI'S

FAVOR, KAIFU'S VIEWS MAY REFLECT INSIDE INFORMATION AND/OR MIKI'S OWN THINKING.

2. KAIFU SAID IT WAS TOO EARLY TO TELL THE ULTIMATE IMPACT ON US-JAPAN RELATIONS. HE AND OTHERS, HE SAID, WERE WORKING TO SEPARATE ONGOING US-JAPAN RELATIONS FROM THE "EMOTIONS OF INDIVIDUALS," WHO MIGHT BE UNHAPPY WITH THE RESULTS OF THE LOCKHEED PROBE, US COURT DELAYS, ETC. MOREOVER, WITH THE BEGINNING OF A NEW DIET SESSION EARLY NEXT YEAR, LOCKHEED MIGHT RECEDE IN POLITICIANS MEMORIES.

3. KAIFU STRESSED THAT BOTH PM MIKI'S PROSPECTS AND THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL TIMETABLE WERE DEPENDENT UPON THE OUTCOME OF THE LOCKHEED INVESTIGATION. HE WAS GENERALLY UPBEAT, HOWEVER, ABOUT THE LDP'S CURRENT IMAGE, NOTING THE RECENT RISE IN THE MIKI CABINET SUPPORT RATE.

4. HE PREDICTED FLATLY THAT MIKI AND HIS PRESENT CABINET WOULD CONTINUE THROUGH THE LATE-YEAR LOWER HOUSE ELECTION UNLESS, A TOP LDP OFFICIAL (FOR EXAMPLE, NAKASONE) OR A CURRENT CABINET MEMBER WERE IMPLICATED IN LOCKHEED. NO MATTER HOW MUCH FUKUDA MIGHT WANT TO BECOME PRIME MINISTER, KAIFU SAID, THERE IS NO (PUBLICLY) CREDIBLE REASON TO DEPOSE MIKI. HE DISMISSED RECENT BUSINESSMEN'S CRITICISM OF MIKI BY SAYING, MOST BUSINESSMEN THOUGHT MIKI "COLD" BECAUSE HE DIDN'T TAKE THEM INTO HIS CONFIDENCE OR ASK THEM FOR MONEY. HE SAW NO DANGER OF A CONSERVATIVE PARTY SPLIT.

5. IF, HOWEVER, A TOP LDP OFFICIAL OR CURRENT CABINET MEMBER WAS IMPLICATED IN LOCKHEED, KAIFU THOUGHT IT WOULD SET OFF A POWER STRUGGLE WITHIN THE LDP. THE ISSUE WOULD BE WHETHER NAKASONE, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD BE REPLACED (PRESUMABLY MIKI'S WISH) OR THE ENTIRE CABINET RESHUFFLED (IMPLYING A MASS CABINET RESIGNATION, AN ANTI-MIKI TACTIC).

6. KAIFU, ADMITTING THE UNCERTAINTY OF THE POLITICAL SCHEDULE, ADVISED MIKI THAT SAME MORNING THAT OCTOBER 10 WAS THE CUTOFF FOR EXPECTED DIET DELIBERATIONS, IMPLYING A LOWER CONFIDENTIAL

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HOUSE DISSOLUTION AT THAT TIME AND A NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION. (THIS ALSO ASSUMES, OF COURSE, THAT MIKI REMAINS IN POWER.)

7. KAIFU RATED LDP ELECTION PROSPECTS GOOD. HE ASSUMED THE TANAKA FACTION WOULD HOLD TOGETHER AT LEAST THROUGH THE ELECTION. HE SAW NO PROSPECT THAT THE LDP WOULD LOSE ITS LOWER HOUSE MAJORITY. KAIFU ADMITTED, HOWEVER, HE

WAS WORRIED ABOUT CONSERVATIVE PROSPECTS IN NEXT YEAR'S  
UPPER HOUSE ELECTION.

8. COMMENT: KAIFU'S PROPHECIES, BECAUSE PREDICTABLE,  
ARE LESS INTERESTING THAN HIS ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT HOW THE  
LOCKHEED PROBE MIGHT END. HE ASSUMES THAT ONLY A FEW  
CONSERVATIVES WILL BE IMPLICATED, THAT TOP TANAKA  
LIEUTENANTS WILL NOT AND, LESS CERTAINLY, THAT TOP LDP  
OFFICIALS OR CURRENT CABINET MEMBERS WILL NOT BE CALLED  
IN. THIS GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC VIEW IS SHARED BY OTHER  
MIKI CONFIDANTS WE HAVE TALKED WITH RECENTLY. WHETHER  
THEY ARE TOO OPTIMISTIC REMAINS TO BE SEEN.  
SHOESMITH

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